



**Cargo Preference News4U
Moving Cargo – Lifeline of the Sea**



Acting Administrator John Jamian

July/August 2005

FROM THE ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

The Maritime Administration has awarded maintenance contracts of its all-cargo fleet of fifty-four Ready Reserve Force ships to nine American-owned and operated ship management firms under a new set of contracts that have an estimated total value of \$1.9 billion over 10 years.

Most of the newly awarded contracts are built on a four-year base period, with two-three year extension options that will be based on the company's performance. The management firms are responsible for keeping the ships in a constant state of readiness and getting the ships fully crewed with U.S.-citizen merchant mariners when an activation call goes out.

Our RRF ships "have moved an extraordinary amount of cargo over the past several years and our nation's maritime industry has kept this fleet in good working order and worked diligently to show its value," noted Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian.

To view full release, click on
http://www.marad.dot.gov/Headlines/announcements/2005/Ship%20Awards/Generic%20Release_Web.htm.

IN THE NEWS: AROUND INDUSTRY

APL's Innovative Technology Promotes On-time Delivery

American President Lines has added a new piece of technology that should speed up tracking container cargo at its Global Gateway South Terminal. The introduction of the Real Time Locating System can significantly "reduce the time it takes by as much as half a day to track a container in the yard and prepare it for transport." The new tracking system should improve the efficiency and help on-time delivery to APL's customers.

Here's how it works: In its Los Angeles terminal, APL is affixing active Radio Frequency Identification tags to every chassis in its yard. The tags transmit location signals to computerized tracking equipment.

Since nearly every container at the GGS terminal is on a chassis, containers can be quickly spotted and readied for shipment by rail, truck or ship.

To learn more, go to http://www.apl.com/press_releases/html/press_release_20050728.html.

MARAD HIGHLIGHTS ITS CUSTOMER— SEABROOK CARRIERS, INC

The Maritime Administration announces that Seabrook Carriers, Inc. has entered U.S.-flag service with its recent acquisition of the product tanker MV SEABROOK.

Seabrook Carriers, Inc., a member of the Fairfield-Maxwell group of companies, joined the ranks of the U.S.-flag carriers upon purchase of the 35,000 DWT tanker from Eagle Trading in May 2005 after which the vessel underwent extensive shipyard work. The MV Seabrook (ex-Sabine Eagle, ex-Falcon Leader built 1983) is qualified to operate in the Jones Act trades. For the next three years, the vessel will be on charter to Maritrans.

Fairfield-Maxwell, Ltd., which is located in the Chrysler Building in New York City, operates bulk carriers, chemical tankers, product tankers, car carriers and seismographic vessels.

MARAD along with the maritime industry welcomes Seabrook Carriers, Inc. as America's newest U.S.-flag carrier.

IN THE NEWS: AROUND MARAD

LOOKING FOR U.S.-FLAG SERVICE?

MARAD's Office of Cargo Preference has added a new feature to its web site to reduce the response time in locating a U.S.-flag vessel to transport cargo. Our aim is to obtain as much information from you – the customer-- to help locate a vessel to meet **your** specific requirements. To view the Assistance Form, click on http://www.marad.dot.gov/offices/cargo/Assistance_Form.html. Once the form has been accessed, a series of six questions will appear for your processing. Once the questions are completed, simply click on "submit" at the bottom of the form to transmit the form back to us. We will research your request and get back in contact with you, reducing your down-time and allowing you more time to concentrate on other matters of concern. We hope this new addition proves beneficial to you – our trading and maritime partners.

Help us to help you by completing **all** of the information requested.

A SHORT NOTE: MARAD CHANGES E-MAIL ADDRESS PROTOCOL – PLEASE NOTE CHANGE!

In keeping with efforts to improve efficiency, the Department of Transportation is now consolidating the IT functions for the various agencies operating under the DOT structure. As a result, MARAD email addresses, with a few exceptions, have a new format: The new format is:

firstname.lastname@dot.gov.

We request that the change be incorporated into emails sent to MARAD staffs.

Special Note --

To learn more about MARAD's cargo preference requirements and other related information, visit one of the web sites shown below or contact the office directly at 1-800-9US-FLAG or 202-366-4610, Email: cargo.marad@marad.dot.gov.

- Cargo preference and its guidelines, <http://www.marad.dot.gov/offices/cargo/>

- Humanitarian Food Aid Report, click on <http://www.marad.dot.gov/offices/cargo/CAPOS%20Reports/>
- Public Resolution - 17 Waivers, click on <http://www.marad.dot.gov/offices/cargo/PR17waivers.html>
- U.S.-Flag Service (Destinations from U.S. to Foreign Countries), click on <http://www.marad.dot.gov/USFlag/>

We welcome suggestions on how to better improve our newsletter. All information may be emailed directly to Sharon.Jenkins @dot.gov; or by fax (@202/366-5522).